

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES

Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States

Adults ages 25 to 64 in the United States who completed upper secondary education (high school or its equivalent) participated in the labor force at a rate that was 16 percentage points higher than the rate of noncompleters of upper secondary education in 1999. The advantage of higher labor force participation of completers of upper secondary education relative to noncompleters was smaller in the United States than in Germany (18 percentage points), Canada (20 percentage points), Italy (23 percentage points), and the United Kingdom (25 percentage points), and the same as in France (16 percentage points). In contrast, the advantage of higher labor force participation of completers of upper secondary education was greater in the United States than in Japan. In 1999, completers of upper secondary education in Japan participated in the labor force at a rate that was 6 percentage points higher than the rate of noncompleters (figure 30a).

Completers of academic higher education ages 25 to 64 in the United States participated in the labor force at a rate that was 8 percentage points higher than the rate of completers of upper secondary education in 1999. The advantage of higher labor force participation of completers of academic higher education relative

to completers of upper secondary higher education was smaller in the United States than in Italy (11 percentage points), Germany (12 percentage points), and Japan (12 percentage points), and the same as in the United Kingdom (8 percentage points). However, the advantage of higher labor force participation of completers of academic higher education relative to completers of upper secondary education was greater in the United States than in Canada (6 percentage points) and France (4 percentage points) (figure 30a).

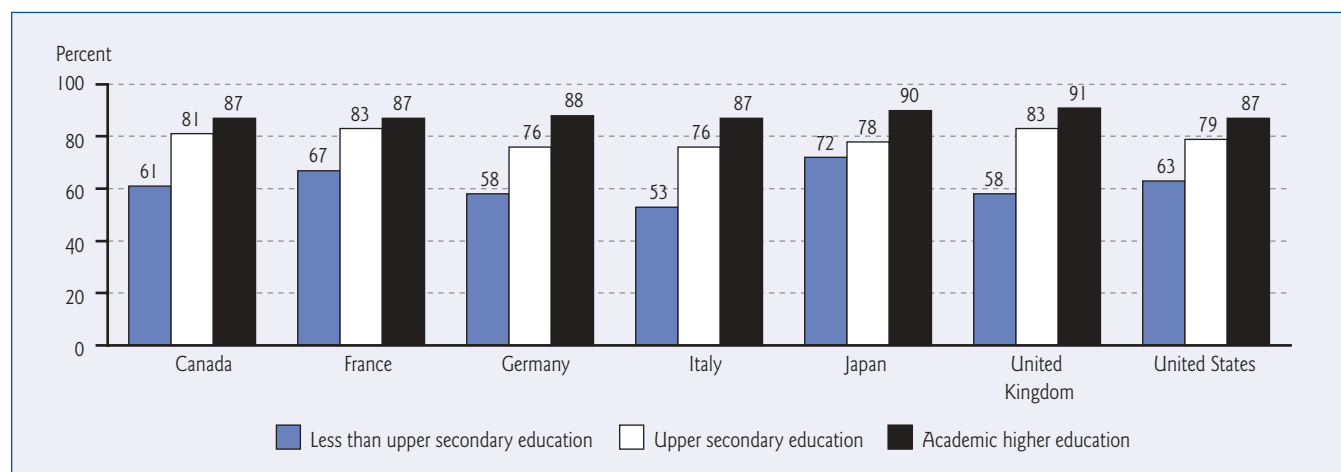
In all countries presented, females who completed upper secondary education or academic higher education had lower labor force participation rates than their male counterparts in 1999. However, completion of academic higher education reduced the difference in labor force participation rates between females and males in all countries presented. In the United States, the difference in labor force participation rates of males and females who completed upper secondary education was 15 percentage points; the difference for completers of academic higher education was only 11 percentage points (figure 30b).

Definition and Methodology

The labor force participation rate of adults ages 25 to 64 for a particular level of educational attainment is calculated as the number of individuals ages 25 to 64 with the particular level of educational attainment who are participating in the labor force di-

vided by the number of individuals ages 25 to 64 with the same particular level of educational attainment, regardless of employment status.

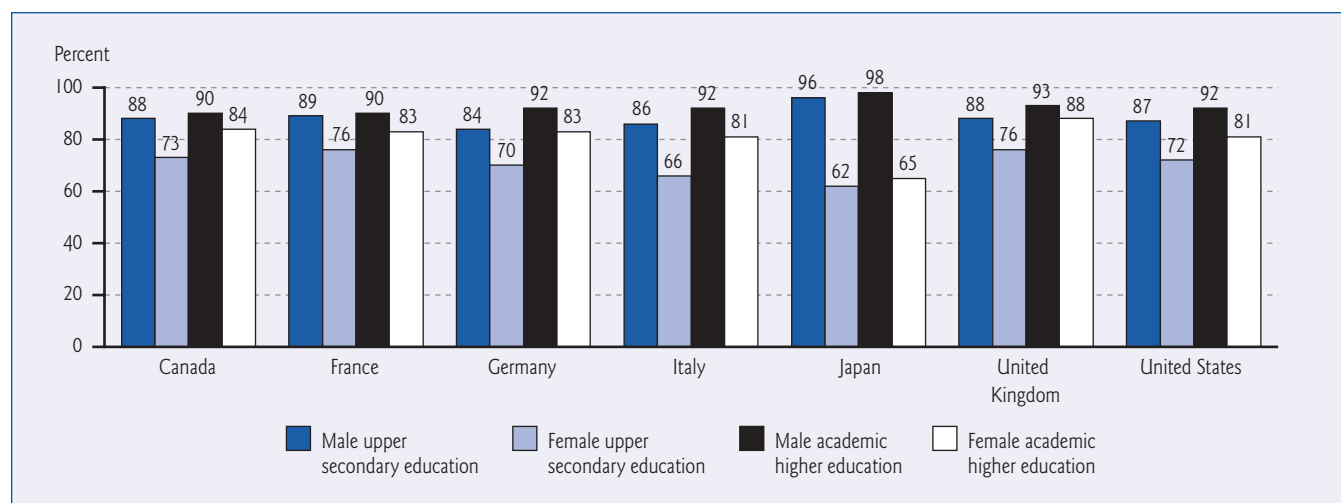
Figure 30a. Labor force participation rates of the adult population ages 25 to 64, by level of education and country: 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001.

Figure 30b. Labor Force participation rates of the male and female adult population ages 25 to 64, by level of education and country: 1999



NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001.

Labor Force Participation Rates – Data Tables

Table A-30a. Labor force participation rates of the adult population ages 25 to 64, by level of education and country: 1999

Country	Educational attainment		
	Less than upper secondary education	Upper secondary education	Academic higher education
Canada	61	81	87
France	67	83	87
Germany	58	76	88
Italy	53	76	87
Japan	72	78	90
United Kingdom	58	83	91
United States	63	79	87

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001.

Table A-30b. Labor force participation rates of the male and female adult population ages 25 to 64, by level of education and country: 1999

Country	Educational attainment					
	Male upper secondary education	Female upper secondary education	Difference between male and female upper secondary education	Male academic higher education	Female academic higher education	Difference between male and female academic higher education
Canada	88	73	15	90	84	6
France	89	76	13	90	83	7
Germany	84	70	14	92	83	9
Italy	86	66	20	92	81	11
Japan	96	62	34	98	65	33
United Kingdom	88	76	12	93	88	5
United States	87	72	15	92	81	11

NOTE: The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Education Database, 2001.